

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JAY KUO, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

NAVIANT CORPORATION; NAVIENT
SOLUTIONS, LLC.

Defendants.

Case No. 3:22-cv-05282-JD

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER FOR STANDARD LITIGATION

Judge: Hon. Judge Donato

Complaint Filed: September 16, 2022

Trial Date: None Set

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order (“Order”). The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information or items under this Order.

2.2 "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is

1 generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of
2 Civil Procedure 26(c).

3 2.3 Counsel (without qualifier): Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as
4 their support staff).

5 2.4 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it
6 produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

7 2.5 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the medium
8 or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony,
9 transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to
10 discovery in this matter.

11 2.6 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to the
12 litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a consultant
13 in this action.

14 2.7 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this action. House Counsel
15 does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

16 2.8 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal
17 entity not named as a Party to this action.

18 2.9 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this action
19 but are retained to represent or advise a party to this action and/or have appeared in this action on
20 behalf of that party or are affiliated or associated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that
21 party, and their support staff.

22 2.10 Party: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors, employees,
23 Experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).

24 2.11 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery Material
25 in this action.

26 2.12 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services (e.g.,
27 photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing, storing,
28 or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

1 2.13 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as
2 "CONFIDENTIAL."

3 2.14 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a
4 Producing Party.

5 3. SCOPE

6 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material (as
7 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2) all
8 copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony,
9 conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.
10 However, the protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following
11 information: (a) any information that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a Receiving
12 Party or becomes part of the public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as a result of
13 publication not involving a violation of this Order, including becoming part of the public record
14 through trial or otherwise; and (b) any information known to the Receiving Party prior to the disclosure
15 or obtained by the Receiving Party after the disclosure from a source who obtained the information
16 lawfully and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Designating Party. Any use of Protected
17 Material at trial shall be governed by a separate agreement or order.

18 4. DURATION

19 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed by this
20 Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order
21 otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and
22 defenses in this action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion
23 and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this action, including the time
24 limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time pursuant to applicable law. For a
25 period of six (6) months after final disposition of this litigation, this Court will retain jurisdiction to
26 enforce the terms of this Order.

27 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

28 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each Party or

1 Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care to limit
2 any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The
3 Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral
4 or written communications that qualify – so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or
5 communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of
6 this Order.

7 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown
8 to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily
9 encumber or retard the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
10 other parties) expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

11 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it designated for
12 protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other Parties
13 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

14 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this Order (see,
15 e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or
16 Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so designated before
17 the material is disclosed or produced.

18 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

19 (a) For information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but
20 excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the Producing Party
21 affix the legend “CONFIDENTIAL” to each page that contains protected material. If only a portion
22 or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly
23 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

24 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents or materials available for inspection need
25 not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated which material it would
26 like copied and produced. During the inspection and before the designation, all of the material made
27 available for inspection shall be deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified
28 the documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents,

1 or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing the specified
2 documents, the Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL” legend to each page that contains
3 Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the
4 Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate
5 markings in the margins).

6 (b) for testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings, that the
7 Designating Party identify all protected testimony either (i) on the record, before the close of the
8 deposition, hearing, or other proceeding, or (ii) within thirty (30) days of receipt of the deposition
9 transcript from the court reporter (“30-day period”). The entire deposition transcript will be considered
10 by the Parties as “CONFIDENTIAL” during the 30-day period. After the 30-day period, if no Party
11 has designated some or all of that deposition transcript as “CONFIDENTIAL” under this Protective
12 Order, the entire deposition, or those portions of the deposition not designated as confidential, will no
13 longer be considered confidential.

14 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other
15 tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or
16 containers in which the information or item is stored the legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion
17 or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable,
18 shall identify the protected portion(s). For any information transmitted by electronic means, the label
19 “CONFIDENTIAL” shall appear on the subject of the electronic mail or in the title/name of the digital
20 document, file, or other media through which they are conveyed.

21 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to
22 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party’s right
23 to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the
24 Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with
25 the provisions of this Order.

26 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

27 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of
28 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party’s confidentiality

1 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens,
2 or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to challenge a
3 confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation
4 is disclosed.

5 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process by
6 providing written notice of each designation it is challenging and describing the basis for each
7 challenge. To avoid ambiguity as to whether a challenge has been made, the written notice must recite
8 that the challenge to confidentiality is being made in accordance with this specific paragraph of the
9 Protective Order. The parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in good faith and must begin the
10 process by conferring directly (in voice to voice dialogue; other forms of communication are not
11 sufficient) within 14 days of the date of service of notice. In conferring, the Challenging Party must
12 explain the basis for its belief that the confidentiality designation was not proper and must give the
13 Designating Party an opportunity to review the designated material, to reconsider the circumstances,
14 and, if no change in designation is offered, to explain the basis for the chosen designation. A
15 Challenging Party may proceed to the next stage of the challenge process only if it has engaged in this
16 meet and confer process first or establishes that the Designating Party is unwilling to participate in the
17 meet and confer process in a timely manner.

18 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
19 intervention, the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Civil
20 Local Rule 7 (and in compliance with Civil Local Rule 79-5, if applicable) within 21 days of the initial
21 notice of challenge or within 14 days of the parties agreeing that the meet and confer process will not
22 resolve their dispute, whichever is earlier. Each such motion must be accompanied by a competent
23 declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed in
24 the preceding paragraph. Failure by the Designating Party to make such a motion including the
25 required declaration within 21 days (or 14 days, if applicable) shall automatically waive the
26 confidentiality designation for each challenged designation. In addition, the Challenging Party may
27 file a motion challenging a confidentiality designation at any time if there is good cause for doing so,
28 including a challenge to the designation of a deposition transcript or any portions thereof. Any motion

1 brought pursuant to this provision must be accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the
2 movant has complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed by the preceding paragraph.

3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party.
4 Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary
5 expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the
6 Designating Party has waived the confidentiality designation by failing to file a motion to retain
7 confidentiality as described above, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level
8 of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the court rules on the
9 challenge.

10 7. **ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

11 7.1 **Basic Principles.** A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or
12 produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
13 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the
14 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the litigation has been
15 terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL
16 DISPOSITION).

17 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location and in a
18 secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this Order.

19 7.2 **Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items.** Unless otherwise ordered by
20 the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any
21 information or item designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

22 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well as employees
23 of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for
24 this litigation;

25 (b) any Party, and the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the
26 Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed
27 the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

28 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Producing Party may be shown or examined

1 on any information, document or thing designated “CONFIDENTIAL” by the Producing Party;

2 (d) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is
3 reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to
4 Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

5 (e) the court and its personnel;

6 (f) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and
7 Professional Vendors (i) whose contract with or warranties to a Party related to the provision of
8 services in connection with this action requires them to maintain the confidentiality of the Protected
9 Material or (ii) to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the
10 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

11 (g) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably
12 necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A),
13 unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court;

14 (h) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other
15 person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

16 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed
17 upon by any of the Parties engaged in settlement discussions; and

18 (j) such other persons as the Parties may agree or as may be ordered by the court.

19 8. **PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER**
20 **LITIGATION**

21 If a Receiving Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that
22 would compel disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,”
23 that Receiving Party must:

24 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include a copy
25 of the subpoena or court order;

26 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the
27 other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this
28 Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

1 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the
2 Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

3 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party served with the
4 subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as
5 “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order issued,
6 unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The Designating Party shall bear the
7 burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material – and nothing in
8 these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this action to
9 disobey a lawful directive from another court. All disclosure and discovery disputes are subject to the
10 undersigned’s Standing Order for Discovery in Civil Cases, and/or to the Standing Order of any
11 subsequently assigned magistrate or district judge to whom such disputes may be submitted

12 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN THIS
13 LITIGATION

14 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this
15 action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information produced by Non-Parties in
16 connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing
17 in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional
18 protections.

19 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-
20 Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the
21 Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s confidential information, then the Party shall:

22 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some or all
23 of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

24 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order in
25 this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the
26 information requested; and

27 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party.

28 (c) If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court within 14 days

1 of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-
2 Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a
3 protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control
4 that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court.
5 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking
6 protection in this court of its Protected Material.

7 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

8 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected
9 Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order,
10 the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized
11 disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c)
12 inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this
13 Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
14 Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

15 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
16 MATERIAL

17 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced
18 material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties
19 are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to
20 modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production
21 without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the
22 parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or information covered by
23 the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement
24 in the stipulated protective order submitted to the court.

25 12. MISCELLANEOUS

26 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to seek
27 its modification by the court in the future.

28

1 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective Order
2 no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any information
3 or item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives
4 any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective
5 Order.

6 12.3 Filing Protected Material. Without written permission from the Designating Party or a
7 court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested persons, a Party may not file in the public
8 record in this action any Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any Protected Material
9 must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may only be filed under seal pursuant to
10 a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material at issue. Pursuant to Civil Local
11 Rule 79-5, a sealing order will issue only upon a request establishing that the Protected Material at
12 issue is privileged, protectable as a trade secret, or otherwise entitled to protection under the law. If a
13 Receiving Party's request to file Protected Material under seal pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5 is
14 denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information in the public record pursuant to
15 Civil Local Rule 79-5 unless otherwise instructed by the court.

16 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

17 Unless otherwise ordered or agreed in writing by the Producing Party, within 60 days after the
18 final disposition of this action, as defined in Section 4 above, each Receiving Party must return all
19 Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in this subdivision, "all
20 Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries, and any other format
21 reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or
22 destroyed, the Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not
23 the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by
24 category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms
25 that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other
26 format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision,
27 Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and
28 hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports,

1 attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain
2 Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain
3 subject to this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

4 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

5
6 Dated: February 23, 2023
7
8

9 */s/ Seth A. Safier*

10 **GUTRIDE SAFIER LLP**

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23 Attorneys for Defendants

24 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

25 Dated:

26 *JAMES DONATO*
27 United States District Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, [print or type full name], of [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California on [date] in the case of ***Kuo v. Navient Corporation, et al., 22-cv-05282-JD***. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

12 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Northern District
13 of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such
14 enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

15 I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of
16 _____ [print or type full address and telephone number] as
17 my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to
18 enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

19
20 Date: _____

21 || City and State where sworn and signed: _____

23 Printed name:

25 || Signature: